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Promotion and protection of all human rights, civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights, including the right to development

Written statement* submitted by the Maat for Peace, Development and Human Rights Association, a non-governmental organization in special consultative status

The Secretary-General has received the following written statement which is circulated in accordance with Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

[24 May 2018]

* This written statement is issued, unedited, in the language(s) received from the submitting non-governmental organization(s).

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Human rights and international solidarity

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Submitted to: thirty-eighth session of the Human Rights Council.
Submitted by: Maat for Peace, development and human rights (in consultative status with the United Nations Economic and Social Council).
Date: May 2018
Provided on: item 3: Report of the independent expert on human rights and international Solidarity (Human Rights Council resolution 32/9 and 35/3)

Preface

Maat for Peace, development and human Rights (Egypt) submits this report on human rights and international solidarity in accordance with the third item; promotion and protection of all human rights and civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights, including the right to development.

International solidarity is a guarantee of the freedoms and entitlements codified in international treaties, as stated in the report of the independent expert on human rights and international solidarity; it is the duty of States to cooperate with each other in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations, in order to maintain international peace and security, and states shall cooperate in promoting universal respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms for all 1 .

Features of the breach of the principle of international solidarity for the respect of human rights

The principle of international solidarity aims at preventing and eliminating the root causes of inequalities between developed and developing countries and eliminating obstacles leading to poverty throughout the world and the creation of a comprehensive supportive environment for the progressive realization of all human rights, but the major powers had exploited poor countries through their development roles, where they are making use of the poverty of developing countries as a means of pressure, either by interfering in their affairs politically, or by intervening militarily under the guise of fighting terrorism or halting human rights violations.

The recent years have witnessed the United States of America and a number of its European allies making interventions in several regions of the world, above all the Arab region, all of which are negative interventions that violate the principle of international solidarity, as such interventions in Iraq, the Syrian Arab Republic and Afghanistan, for example, have led to a deterioration of the situation to the worst, destroying the foundations of political stability, and transforming societies into rival blocs, ignite, ethnic and sectarian wars, as well as the impoverishment that has been dramatically interfered with, the breakdown of its economic structures and infrastructure.

Economically, the terrible disparity in living conditions between the states of the North and the South represents a stark example of the squandering of the principle of international solidarity, and has proved the economic assistance mechanism has been a serious failure over the past years to make tangible progress in the situation of different countries or to bridge the gap, even if partly among the north and the south.

This is because the aid mechanism in its present form is conditioned by the political agendas of the donor countries, hides military and economic ambitions and often accompanied by a desire to buy the loyalties of the states to which they are assisted, and to promote political and diplomatic positions biased towards the positions and orientations of donor states, many of which are in contradiction with human rights standards.

The issue of terrorism also reveals another, more deplorable aspect of the absence of the principle of international solidarity for the respect of human rights. At the same time, the scourge of terrorism is intertwined and there is irrefutable evidence of the involvement of certain states in supporting terrorist organizations directly and indirectly, particularly in areas of armed conflict Libya, Syria and Yemen. Terrorist states provide safe havens and media platforms to terrorist organizations. However, the international community fails to deter these countries and to stop

1-Report of the independent expert on human rights and international solidarity, seventieth session of the provisional agenda, 12 August 2015, the full report can be found in the following link:
http://cutt.us/rLLf2

them from supporting terrorism, violence, extremism and nurturing hate speech, which clearly shows that international solidarity for human rights is weakest much of the magnitude of the challenges facing the world now.

Recommendations

• Redrafting international laws and emphasizing international accountability mechanisms to ensure that major powers do not interfere in the affairs of minor states or exploiting them.

• Developing an international strategy for assistance from rich countries to poor ones; that ensure they are not subject to specific political agendas and are not associated with the dependence of recipient states on donor countries.

• The need to reflect the concept of international solidarity in all international instruments, ensuring that all reference documents in international law demonstrate the existence of international solidarity in order to be binding, dissuasive and constituting a legal argument.

• To take in consideration; the issue of combating terrorism as a starting point for strengthening international solidarity for human rights and to adopt a binding rights convention that encourages and obliges states to renounce violence and extremism and not to provide safe havens and media outlets for organizations convicted or accused of terrorist acts.